



# ADAMS

## Berkshire County



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## NARRATIVE

### Narrative

In the 18th century, the Society of Friends settled the wilderness of the Hoosac River Valley and created the first community that became Adams. Located between Mt. Greylock and the Hoosac Mountain Range, the town grew from a small farming community to a prosperous industrial town. Today, visitors are reminded of the town's history while viewing the monuments to suffragette Susan B. Anthony and President William McKinley, a frequent visitor whose economic policies benefited the town. Also visible is the rich Victorian architectural legacy, which can be found on many town streets.

The most captivating scene in town is a view from the top of Mt. Greylock. In 1985, the State authorized \$8.5 million to prepare roads, utilities and some public amenities to encourage private development for recreational and educational use.

Centrally located, Adams provides visitors with year-round cultural events at local museums and colleges, and numerous outdoor sporting activities.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by New Ashford and Williamstown on the west, Cheshire on the south, Savoy on the east, Florida on the northeast, and North Adams on the north. Adams is 15 miles north of Pittsfield; 133 miles northwest of Boston; 65 miles from Albany, New York; and 158 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 22.94 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 22.94 sq. miles

**Population:** 9,445

**Density:** 412 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F  
Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F  
Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

North Adams, Windsor, Williamstown, Cheshire

## Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Pittsfield



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 743-1561

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1778

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 5,462

Democrats 2,470 45.2 % Republicans 515 9.4 % Other parties 1 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 2,476 45.3 %

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Adams town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	8,809	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	8,809	100.0
Male.....	4,154	47.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	72	0.8
Female.....	4,655	52.8	Mexican.....	15	0.2
Under 5 years.....	460	5.2	Puerto Rican.....	25	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	591	6.7	Cuban.....	6	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	559	6.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	26	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	559	6.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	8,737	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	391	4.4	White alone.....	8,588	97.5
25 to 34 years.....	1,012	11.5	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	1,356	15.4	Total population.....	8,809	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,209	13.7	In households.....	8,788	99.8
55 to 59 years.....	468	5.3	Householder.....	3,992	45.3
60 to 64 years.....	404	4.6	Spouse.....	1,796	20.4
65 to 74 years.....	810	9.2	Child.....	2,357	26.8
75 to 84 years.....	760	8.6	Own child under 18 years.....	1,834	20.8
85 years and over.....	230	2.6	Other relatives.....	245	2.8
Median age (years).....	41.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	74	0.8
18 years and over.....	6,832	77.6	Nonrelatives.....	398	4.5
Male.....	3,140	35.6	Unmarried partner.....	243	2.8
Female.....	3,692	41.9	In group quarters.....	21	0.2
21 years and over.....	6,548	74.3	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	2,056	23.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	21	0.2
65 years and over.....	1,800	20.4	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	681	7.7	Total households.....	3,992	100.0
Female.....	1,119	12.7	Family households (families).....	2,433	60.9
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	1,072	26.9
One race.....	8,723	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,796	45.0
White.....	8,635	98.0	With own children under 18 years.....	686	17.2
Black or African American.....	32	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	476	11.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	7	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	302	7.6
Asian.....	21	0.2	Nonfamily households.....	1,559	39.1
Asian Indian.....	4	-	Householder living alone.....	1,390	34.8
Chinese.....	4	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	705	17.7
Filipino.....	2	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,147	28.7
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,358	34.0
Korean.....	4	-	Average household size.....	2.20	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.81	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	6	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-	Total housing units.....	4,362	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,992	91.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	370	8.5
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	2	-	occasional use.....	10	0.2
Some other race.....	24	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	86	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	9.4	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,992	100.0
White.....	8,720	99.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,414	60.5
Black or African American.....	67	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,578	39.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	45	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.39	(X)
Asian.....	27	0.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.91	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	0.1			
Some other race.....	37	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	96
Conventional Federal	0

**Rental Assistance** (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	19
Federal (Section 8)	95



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Adams is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 8, which runs N-S between North Adams and Pittsfield.

### Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Adams, but the town has access to the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts.

### Bus

Adams is a member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA). The BRTA provides fixed route bus service to neighboring towns, with connections in Pittsfield to the southern Berkshires. The BRTA also offers user-side paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

### Other

Harriman & West Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in the neighboring town of North Adams, has a 4,300'x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: None.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Adams Rest Home, Inc.

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.